

For More Information:

Wastewater Operator Certification Program
Washington Department of Ecology
Contact: Poppy Carre

360-407-6449 or poca461@ecy.wa.gov

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/op_cert/index.html

Why wastewater treatment matters:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/index.html

Operator Certification

Washington Department of Health

Contact: Larry Granish

360-236-3141 or larry.granish@doh.wa.gov

<http://www.doh.wa.gov>

Drinking water publications are online at

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/publications/publications.cfm>

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call 800-525-0127. For TTY/TDD, call 800-833-6388.



Career Opportunities For Veterans In the Water Sector

February 2013
DOH 331-471



Reasons for you to become a certified operator

Jobs that offer:

- Long-term professional employment.
- On-the-job training and internships.
- Advancement.
- Team work and opportunity to work independently.
- The chance to become highly skilled in areas such as mechanics, electrical work, mathematics, biology and chemistry.

Drinking water and wastewater operators help maintain public and environmental health.

Wastewater operators are the front line workers to ensure water is safe for the public and environment. Operators guarantee this by making sure water used by their communities is free of all contaminants before it is returned to the environment.

Drinking water operators run equipment to manage the process of producing safe, reliable drinking water. Water operators maintain and repair important water system infrastructure like pipes, pumps, controls and generators that are used to produce water for homes and communities.

You may know more than you realize

You've learned a lot and have great work experience from working in the military. Some of those skills are just what you need to be a drinking water or wastewater operator.

Experience in water treatment, distribution, reverse osmosis or desalinization and sewage treatment, pretreatment, and storage are directly applicable skills for a drinking water or wastewater operator.

Minimum requirements to be a certified operator

Drinking Water (Operator-in-Training)

- High school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED).
- Three months operating experience.
- Or**
- Three relevant continuing education units (CEUs) or college credits.
- Pass a written exam.

Wastewater (Group 1)

- High school diploma or GED.
- One year operating experience (no substitutions).
- Pass a written exam.

Training opportunities

Many states offer "in-training" drinking water and wastewater operator certification exams. Passing these exams demonstrates your basic understanding and competency to potential employers.

As you advance in your career, there are progressing levels of certification that take into account overall experience.

Water Sector Training

In Washington, four training entities that specialize in water/wastewater training:

- 1) Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWOW) in Olympia, WA
<http://www.erwow.org/>
- 2) Washington Environmental Training Center (WETRC) at Green River Community College in Auburn, WA
<http://www.wetrc.org/>
- 3) Environmental Sciences Department of Water Resources at Spokane Community College in Spokane, WA
<http://www.scc.spokane.edu/?waterres>
- 4) Environmental Conservation Department at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, WA
http://www.skagit.edu/directory.asp_Q_pagenum ber_E_202

To learn more about drinking water and wastewater operator career opportunities, visit the following websites:

- American Water Works Association
www.awwa.org
- Association of Boards of Certification
www.abccert.org
- Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association
www.pncwa.org
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
<http://www.rcap.org/taxonomy/term/694>
- Water Environment Federation
www.wef.org

Things you can do before leaving the military

- If you can, get your military experience and training converted to college credits.
- Get any operating experience in drinking water or wastewater documented by your superiors.
- Get an affidavit of employment for each duty station prior to leaving the station.
- Save your military evaluations. Many types of experience could be relevant to job opportunities in the water sector.

